

in order that they may be *very short*, let every one confine himself, to the *special object*. It is better that petition after petition should arise, substantially *repetitions*, so long as they are offered by different supplicants, than that the thoughts, and desires of the assembly should be diverted from the Theological Institute and its relation to the kingdom of Christ. Such speciality of petition, so far from rendering the service monotonous, would, if rightly conducted, impart peculiar freshness and fervour to the exercises. The theme is by no means narrow: it is one of vast compass. The physical, mental and spiritual requirements of the students are great; the responsibilities of their instructors are overwhelmingly great; the influence for good or evil, that a class so large as the present, must exert on the churches of Christ, if permitted to enter the ministry, is incalculable! The tone and character of the churches, the efficiency of the gospel in our land, are instrumentally dependent, chiefly on this school of prophets. Two or three years ago anxiety was felt on account of the smallness of the class of young brethren devoting themselves to the ministry. Earnest prayer was offered to the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth more labourers. That prayer is being abundantly answered, and the committee are constrained to meet another difficulty, arising from the large increase in the number of students, and of applicants for admission. The funds are inadequate. An increase of contributions from the churches, to the extent of 50 per cent. upon last year's subscriptions is indispensable, to meet the prospective liabilities of the session about to commence: brethren *let us pray in this behalf*. "Ask and ye shall receive." Let the churches take this burden to the throne of grace, in their own behalf; for the committee's responsibilities are *theirs*; and in this matter, the committee have to refer to their brethren who have appointed them. They need our deep and hearty sympathy, at the throne of grace. In admitting young men, they have to assume very heavy responsibility: and no less in declining such applications. To turn aside a well qualified applicant, might be a virtual rejection of one of Christ's choicest gifts to His church. They have not ventured to incur such responsibility, even though the requisite funds were wanting. Hitherto they have exercised faith in God, and his people. Let us, one and all, sustain their hands, by our fervent prayers and liberal contributions; for where the former are sincere, the latter will not be lacking.

Let Pastors and churches beware of another possible abuse of the annual day of prayer; viz., the doing up of a *year's prayers in this behalf, in one day*. The Institute should be continually in remembrance before the Lord. There is peculiar propriety in the observance of *th* day appointed, inasmuch as on the following Wednesday the next session is opened; and by observing the previous Sabbath as a season of special prayer for the classes about resuming their studies, the churches throughout the land, are brought to participate in the commencement exercises. It is very desirable that on such occasions, appropriate discourses should be delivered, setting forth, among other themes, the claims of Christ upon the sanctified talents of His people, and of young men especially, for the work of "publishing the glad tidings of the Kingdom." A valuable opportunity is thus afforded the pastor, for presenting with special effect, various truths which are somewhat out of the ordinary line of pulpit instruction. With these friendly hints, we would earnestly commend the *second Sabbath of October* as a day of special prayer for our Institute.